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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION ON CAFTA, JUNE 06, 2005

1. On 06/04 the Tegucigalpa-based liberal daily "La Tribuna" published an op-ed by Rigoberto Espinal Irias entitled "Mysterious opposition to CAFTA." "Has there ever been solidarity among workers in the world?"

"CAFTA-DR's approval has generated a mysterious alliance against the commercial instrument that would be the starting point for creating a continental market and strengthening trade with competitively and high-quality levels."

"Some U.S. union workers see these 'first Americans' improvement [of working conditions] as a threat to their legitimate interests. Central Americans don't believe they can benefit with the arrival of foreign investment and the creation of more and better jobs."

"It's a sociological mystery: they are capable of joining against the starting point for economic growth, but incapable of understanding who are CAFTA's winners because with it new international trade relationships aren't developed."

"Anyway, we are gaining experience."

Palmer